

A True COPY of the PAPER deliver'd by John Smith at the place of Execution, after he had read it to the People there: with a further Account of the several Robberies he committed in his Life time; which was within the space of eight Days.

20. Decemb. 1704.

JOHAN SMITH, in his further opening of his Conscience to me, said, That he had been very wild, and very unruly in his younger Years, and that the ill Habits which he had then so early contracted, he was strongly confirm'd in them by his being (tho' but a little while) at Sea. From whence when he was return'd, he became so familiarly acquainted with a certain *Perrinwig-Maker* then in *Chancery-lane*, that one day he open'd to him the Discourse of going to rob on the High-Way; which having soon agreed together to attempt, they both of them set out for that most wicked Intent upon the best of Days, viz. the Lord's Day, being the 29th of October last past. And as they were waiting for a Booty about *Faddington*, and were there walking up and down, he rested himself upon a Stile over-against the Gallows at *Tyburn*. At the sight of which, his Heart did misgive him and fail him; and thereupon he thought within himself, that some time or other, he should come to end his Life, where he was now about beginning to rob; which he told his Companion, and would have perswaded him to go home again with him: but he would not; and instead of yielding to it, he egg'd him on; telling him, *What matters it, Jack? 'Tis but hanging, if thou shouldst come to that.* So they proceeded on their wicked Design; and the next Person that came into their way, was Mr *William Birch*, whose Mare they stole, which was his first Robbery. The next Day, being *Monday* the 30th of October, he set out alone upon that Mare, and rob'd three Stage-Coaches by *Epping-Forest*. The Wednesday following, being the first of November, he rob'd three other Stage-Coaches, and a Hackney-Coach upon *Houfflow-Heath*: And the next Saturday after, being the 4th of November, he rob'd three Stage-Coaches more, near *St. Albans*. In all which Robberies, he said, he did not get above Twenty Pounds. And lastly, he rob'd Mr. *Woodcock's* Coach on *Finchley-Common* the 6th of November, for which he was apprehended. All which said Robberies (that of Mr. *Birch* excepted) he did by himself.

Here follows the abovementioned Paper of John Smith, which he introduced thus.

'Good People, and Brethren, and Fellow-Creatures, I am come hie to suffer a shameful Death, which I have justly deserved for my great Sins, and particularly for that Robbery which I committed not far from this Place. It was in yonder place, [turning his Face towards *Paddington*.

My Name is John Smith. Then he read his said Paper, as follows.

John Smith, being born in the Town of *Winchcombe* in *Gloucestershire*, born of very good Parents, and brought up to very good

Learning in the Protestant Religion, and never did profess any other, and being kept to very good Schools till I was 13 years of Age; and then being put Apprentice to a Barber and *Perrinwig-Maker* in *Burford* in *Oxfordshire*, and having too good a Master and Mistress, I left them, and travelled into several foreign Countries, and then returning to *London*, I following my Trade a Journey-man for several years, sometimes in *London*, and sometimes in the Country; and till I unfortunately came acquainted with some Youngmen that us'd for to frequent the Dancing-Houses, which I got such a Habit of them, that I could not leave them and my Companions; which first in breaking the Lord's Day and keeping company with lewd Women of this Town, brought me to all manner of Vice, and for to maintain my self, I could not without taking to ill Courses, which I let loose at once, and on the 29th day of October, 1704. a little before *Tyburn*, where I met with a Gentleman upon a *Gray-Mare*, where I and another set upon him and took her away from him; and Money being very short, I went upon the High-Way, and committing a Robbery of one *Esq; Woodcock* in his Coach, I was pursued by the Country and taken. This Trade I do declare to the World, That I never did follow above 7 or 8 days at furthest: and I being taken and brought to *Newgate*, and from thence to the *Old-Bailey*, and there took my Trial, and being cast, the next day, I received Sentence of death; therefore I humbly beg for the Lord's sake, that all you Young-Men that I leave here behind, that you will take Warning by my untimely Death; and especially I beg of all you young Men of my Acquaintance and Companions, that you will take Warning in time, and avoid those Houses and all ill Company, and remember my Last Dying Words, least some of you come to the same End, which I pray God you may not; for this that I suffer, is but the just Punishment of my Wickedness in this World, and I do declare to the World, that I never was guilty of any Murder in all my lifetime: and I pray God that every body whom I have wronged, will forgive me; for were I able for to make Satisfaction, I should be very willing for to do it: but as I am not, I hope my life will be Satisfaction to them all; and for whomsoever have wronged me, I do from the bottom of my Heart, forgive them and all the World for what Injury any Man has done me. And I die in Charity with all the World, and the Lord Jesus Christ receive my sinful Soul.

The above Paper of John Smith, I attest to be a true Copy of his last Speech, by him delivered to me in writing at the Place of Execution the 20th Day of December, 1704. Witness my Hand.

PAUL LORRAIN, Ordin. of *Newgate*.

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